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## Fax Notes:

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Attached are proposed amendments to try to place the case into
condition for allowance.  Please let me know whether the amendments
are accepted by Friday, July 17, 2009, at 1pm eastern time zone so
that an examiner's amendment may be done.
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Proposed claim draft

1. (Currently Amended) A service retrieval apparatus which provides a retrieval

service for retrieving a service provided by a server connected to a network in response to a

request from a client and returning a result of the retrieval, the apparatus comprising:

 a computer configured to function as:

        a retrieval unit that sets a retrieval condition according to the request from the client and

performs a first retrieval over the network for at least [[one of]] a print service [[and]] or a scan

service based upon the set retrieval condition;

        a retrieval result judgment unit that judges whether or not a result of the first retrieval

satisfies judgment criteria set in advance; [[and]]

        a retrieval result output unit that outputs the result which is judged to satisfy the judgment

criteria, wherein:

                when it is judged that a number of one or more services included in the result of

the first retrieval has not reached a lower limit number set as the judgment criteria, the

retrieval unit performs a second retrieval that changes a geographic area which is [[to be]]

a wider search[[ed to be wider to perform a second retrieval]], the geographic area being

an area in which a server providing a service is located, and the retrieval unit performs

the second retrieval, wherein:

                        the retrieval unit retrieves a first service location included in a first

geographic area in the first retrieval,

the retrieval unit retrieves in a second retrieval a second service location

included in a second geographic area which is wider in distance and different

from the geographic area searched in the first retrieval; and

the service locations being locations searchable on the network and

identifying the services; and

when it is judged that the number of one or more services included in the result of

the first retrieval has exceeded an upper limit number set as the judgment criteria, the

retrieval unit performs a second retrieval that changes a geographic area which is [[to be]]

narrower in search, the geographic area being an area in which a server providing a

service is located, and the retrieval unit performs the second retrieval, wherein:

the retrieval unit retrieves a first service location included in a first

geographic area in the first retrieval,

the retrieval unit retrieves in a second retrieval a second service location

included in a second geographic area which is narrower in distance and different

from the geographic area searched in the first retrieval; and

the service locations being locations searchable on the network and

identifying the services; and

when it is judged that a number of one or more services included in the result of

the first retrieval is equal to or more than the lower limit number set and equal to or less

than the upper limit number set as the judgment criteria, the retrieval result judgment unit

returns the result.

[[wherein:

the retrieval unit retrieves a first service location included in a first geographic area in the

first retrieval,

the retrieval unit retrieves a second service location included in a second geographic area

which is wider and substantially different from the geographic area searched in the first retrieval,

in the second retrieval; and the service locations being locations searchable on the network and

identifying the services.]]

2-6. (Canceled)

7.(Previously presented) The service retrieval apparatus according to claim 1, comprising

wherein the computer also is configured to function as a reply unit that rearranges the result of

the retrieval based upon values with respect to attribute items included in the retrieval condition,

and then returns the result of the retrieval to the client.

8. (Currently Amended) A system including a plurality of service retrieval

apparatuses which provide a retrieval service for retrieving a service provided by a server

connected to a network in response to a request from a client and returning a result of the

retrieval, the system comprising:

a memory storing a service information database of service information including address

information and installation position information of the server and attribute information of at

least [[one of]] a print service [[and]] or a scan service provided by the server;

a memory storing a service retrieval apparatus database that, when the network is divided

into a plurality of sub-networks, contains address information and installation position

information of a service retrieval apparatus with each sub-network included in a retrieval range;

and a computer configured to function as:

a retrieval range setting unit that, by retrieving the service retrieval apparatus database

based upon inputted retrieval conditions, specifies one or more service retrieval apparatuses

conforming to the retrieval conditions and sets sub-networks, which correspond to the specified

service retrieval apparatuses, as a retrieval range for the request;

a retrieval unit that executes a first retrieval over the network for a service according to

the set retrieval range for the request;

a retrieval result judgment unit that judges whether or not a result of the first retrieval

satisfies judgment criteria set in advance; and

a retrieval result output unit that outputs the result which is judged to satisfy the judgment

criteria, wherein:

when it is judged that a number of one or more services included in the result of

the first retrieval does not reach a lower limit number set as the judgment criteria, the retrieval

unit performs a second retrieval that changes a geographic area which is [[to be]] a wider

search[[ed to be wider to perform a second retrieval]], the geographic area being an area in

which a server providing a service is located, and the retrieval unit performs the second retrieval,

wherein:

the retrieval unit retrieves a first service location included in a first

geographic area in the first retrieval,

the retrieval unit retrieves a second service location included in a second

geographic area-area, which is wider and different from the geographic area

searched in the first retrieval, in the second retrieval, and

the service locations being locations searchable on the network and

identifying the services; and


when it is judged that the number of one or more services included in the result of

the first retrieval has exceeded an upper limit number set as the judgment criteria, the retrieval

unit performs a second retrieval that changes a geographic area which is [[to be]] narrower in

search, the geographic area being an area in which a server providing a service is located, and the

retrieval unit performs the second retrieval, wherein:

the retrieval unit retrieves a first service location included in a first

geographic area in the first retrieval,

the retrieval unit retrieves in a second retrieval a second service location

included in a second geographic area which is narrower in distance and different

from the geographic area searched in the first retrieval; and

the service locations being locations searchable on the network and

identifying the services; and

<u>when it is judged that a number of one or more services included in the result of the first retrieval is equal to or more than the lower limit number set and equal to or less than the upper limit number set as the judgment criteria, the retrieval result judgment unit returns the result.</u>

[[wherein:

the retrieval unit retrieves a first service location included in a first geographic area in the first retrieval,

the retrieval unit retrieves a second service location included in a second geographic area-area, which is wider and substantially different from the geographic area searched in the first retrieval, in the second retrieval, and the service locations being locations searchable on the network and identifying the services.]]

9-13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) The service retrieval apparatuses according to claim 8, comprising wherein the computer also is configured to function as a reply unit that rearranges the result of the retrieval based upon values with respect to attribute items included in the retrieval conditions, and then returns the result of the retrieval to said client.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A service retrieval method, performed by a computer, which retrieves a service provided by a server connected to a network in response to a request from a client and returns a result of the retrieval, the method comprising:

setting a retrieval condition in response to a request of the client;

performing a first retrieval over the network for at least [[one of]] a print service [[and]]or a scan service based upon the retrieval condition;

judging whether or not a result of the first retrieval satisfies judgment criteria set in advance;

returning the result of the retrieval which is judged to satisfy the judgment criteria to the client; and

when it is judged that a number of one or more services included in the result of the first retrieval does not reach a lower limit number set as the judgment criteria, performing a second retrieval that [[changing]] changes a geographic area which is [[to be]] a wider search[[ed to be wider to perform a second retrieval]], the geographic area being an area in which a server providing a service is located, wherein:

the first retrieval retrieves a first service location included in a first geographic area in the first retrieval,

the second retrieval retrieves a second service location included in a second
geographic area, which is wider in distance and different from the geographic area
searched in the first retrieval, in the second retrieval; and

the service locations being locations searchable on the network and identifying
the services; and

when it is judged that a number of one or more services included in the result of the first
retrieval exceeds an upper limit set as the judgment criteria, performing a second retrieval that
changes a geographic area which is a narrower search, the geographic area being an area in
which a server providing a service is located, wherein:

the first retrieval retrieves a first service location included in a first geographic
area in the first retrieval,

the second retrieval retrieves a second service location included in a second
geographic area, which is narrower in distance and different from the geographic area
searched in the first retrieval, in the second retrieval; and

the service locations being locations searchable on the network and identifying
the services; and

when it is judged that a number of one or more services included in the result of the first
retrieval is equal to or more than the lower limit number set and equal to or less than the upper
limit number set as the judgment criteria, the retrieval result judgment unit returns the result.

[[and wherein:

the first retrieval retrieves a first service location included in a first geographic area in the

first retrieval,

the second retrieval retrieves a second service location included in a second geographic

area area, which is wider and substantially different from the geographic area searched in the

first retrieval, in the second retrieval; and

the service locations being locations searchable on the network and identifying

the services.]]


17-20. (Canceled)


21. (Previously Presented) The service retrieval method according to claim 16, further

comprising rearranging the result of the retrieval with respect to attribute items included in the

retrieval condition, and returning the rearranged result of the retrieval to the client.


22. (Currently Amended) A service retrieval apparatus which provides a retrieval service for

retrieving a service provided by a server connected to a network in response to a search request

from a client and returning a result of the retrieval, the apparatus comprising:


a computer configured to function as:

a retrieval unit that sets a retrieval condition with respect to a retrieval range according to

the search request from the client and performs a first retrieval for at least [[one of]] a print

service [[and]]or a scan service based upon the set retrieval condition, the retrieval range

indicating a sub-network of the network subjected to the first retrieval;

a retrieval result judgment unit that judges whether or not a result of the first retrieval

satisfies judgment criteria set in advance; and

a retrieval result output unit that outputs the result which is judged to satisfy the judgment

criteria, wherein:

when it is judged that a number of one or more services included in the result of

the first retrieval has not reached a lower limit number set as the judgment criteria, the

retrieval unit performs a second retrieval that changes a geographic area which is [[to be]]

a wider search[[ed to be wider to perform a second retrieval]], the geographic area being

an area in which a server providing a service is located, and the retrieval unit performs

the second retrieval, wherein:

the retrieval unit retrieves a first service location included in a first

geographic area in the first retrieval,

the retrieval unit retrieves in a second retrieval a second service location

included in a second geographic area which is wider in distance and different

from the geographic area searched in the first retrieval; and

the service locations being locations searchable on the network and

identifying the services; and

when it is judged that a number of one or more services included in the result of

the first retrieval has exceeded an upper limit number set as the judgment criteria, the

retrieval unit performs a second retrieval that changes a geographic area which is [[to be]]

narrower in search, the geographic area being an area in which a server providing a

service is located, and the retrieval unit performs the second retrieval, wherein:

the retrieval unit retrieves a first service location included in a first

geographic area in the first retrieval,

the retrieval unit retrieves in a second retrieval a second service location

included in a second geographic area which is narrower in distance and different

from the geographic area searched in the first retrieval; and

the service locations being locations searchable on the network and

identifying the services; and

when it is judged that a number of one or more services included in the result of

the first retrieval is equal to or more than the lower limit number set and equal to or less

than the upper limit number set as the judgment criteria, the retrieval result judgment unit

returns the result.

[[wherein:

the retrieval unit retrieves a first service location included in a first geographic area in the

first retrieval,

the retrieval unit retrieves a second service location included in a second geographic area,

which is wider and substantially different from the geographic area searched in the first retrieval,

in the second retrieval; and

the service locations being locations searchable on the network and identifying

the services.]]


23. (Currently Amended) The service retrieval apparatus according to claim 22, wherein:

if the search request from the client includes neither the retrieval range nor a retrieval

target area, the retrieval unit judges whether or not a service to be retrieved is a service for which

a geographical condition is important, and

if the service to be retrieved is the service for which the geographical condition is judged

to be important, the retrieval unit sets an area which is geographic vicinity as the retrieval range

of the first retrieval.


24. (Previously Presented) The service retrieval apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the

retrieval unit defines a circle with latitude and longitude coordinates of its own installation place

as a center and a predetermined value as a radius, and retrieves the service whose latitude and

longitude coordinates are included inside the circle.